

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Staff Sergeant William F. Manuel.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army National Guard Staff Sergeant William F. Manuel upon his death in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Staff Sergeant Manuel; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel was a native of Oberlin, a graduate of Oberlin High School and McNeese State University, where he majored and received his degree in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel was a member of Charlie Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 156<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment, 256<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team and was deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations in October, 2004, after extensive training at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Irwin, California; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel, at age 34, was called "the old man" by many of his younger fellow soldiers in his unit and had been in the National Guard since the first Persian Gulf War; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel was a respected leader and well thought of in both his hometown community and his National Guard unit where he was known for placing

1 the safety and needs of his men before his own needs, and always expressing a pride and  
2 love of his country and declaring he felt it was an honor to be fighting the enemies of  
3 America and protecting his homeland; and

4 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel was part of a mounted patrol on January 10,  
5 2005, involved in searching out terrorist forces suspected of hiding in and operating around  
6 Baghdad when the Bradley fighting vehicle in which he was riding was attacked by an  
7 enemy element that used a command detonated improvised explosive device to strike and  
8 destroy the vehicle and mortally wound him and a fellow National Guardsman; and

9 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel had bravely served with distinction and great  
10 dedication to accomplishing his unit's mission of eliminating terrorist strongholds and  
11 bringing order and stability to the city; and

12 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Manuel's family, friends, and fellow soldiers will mourn  
13 and sorely miss him, and his sacrifice for his country has served to rally his community and  
14 state and fill them with pride that one of their own was making a difference in this nation's  
15 war on terror, and remind citizens everywhere that freedom is never free and Americans  
16 sometimes must fight to protect the freedom and liberties all Americans enjoy.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
18 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and sends its heartfelt condolences from a  
19 grateful state and nation to the family of United States Army National Guard Staff Sergeant  
20 William F. Manuel for fighting America's enemies in a faraway land.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the  
22 wife, Nicole, and the father, Kermit, of Staff Sergeant Manuel.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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#### DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army National Guard Staff Sergeant William F. Manuel.